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Illinois Native Returns with Jazz Band on National Tour

The premier Jazz ensemble of the U.S. Air Force, the Airmen of Note, will perform a free concert at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts on Tuesday, July 1 at 7:30 p.m., as part of its "Celebrating Independence" tour. Technical Sgt. David McDonald, drummer for the "Note," is looking forward to performing so close to his hometown of Decatur as a part of the band's national tour.

"It's great to be back here in the community where I grew up in central Illinois," says McDonald. "When I was in high school, I attended the Bands of America summer camp located at Illinois State University, and the experience helped lay the foundation for the rest of my career."

McDonald received his Bachelor of Music degree in percussion performance from DePaul University in Chicago in 2005 and soon after began his career in the Air Force in 2006.

Prior to joining the Air Force, McDonald performed with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Concertante di Chicago, Kenosha Symphony, Illinois Philharmonic, New World Symphony, and Chicago Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra. He also toured Japan in 2005 as a member of the Pacific Music Festival Orchestra.

In 2013, McDonald deployed with a small group from The U.S. Air Force Band who traveled to Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan in support of diplomatic and troop morale initiatives as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

McDonald's bio and photo is available at:

<http://www.usafband.af.mil/ensembles/BandBio.asp?BandBioID=733>

Stationed at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C., the Airmen of Note is one of six performing groups that comprise The U.S. Air Force Band. Created in 1950 to continue the tradition of Major Glenn Miller's Army Air Corps dance band, the group consists of 18 active duty Airmen musicians including one vocalist.

Through the years, the Airmen of Note has presented its own brand of big band jazz as well as more contemporary forms of jazz to audiences via annual tours across the United States, deployments around the world and local performances throughout metropolitan Washington, D.C.

As part of The U.S. Air Force Band, these Airmen musicians honor those who have served, inspire American citizens to heightened patriotism and service, and positively impact the global community on behalf of the U.S. Air Force and the United States of America. The excellence demonstrated by these Airmen musicians is a reflection of the excellence carried out by Airmen stationed around the globe. For more information about the U.S. Air Force Band, please visit: <http://usafband.af.mil>.

The Airmen of Note's 16-day tour will take these Airmen musicians through Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois. The concert on July 1 at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts is free and open to the public. To get free tickets, contact the center's box office at 309-434-2777.

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